

# Prodigal Older Brother

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The condition of the heart.

## **Intro**

It is easy to criticize people living in sin to point our finger at other people wrong doings. But at the same time, we hide ours. Its always other people that are wrong, but we are in the right.

Jesus was a Master at telling stories. When he tells his stories, he knows exactly who his audience is the sort of people that are listening to him.

***Luke 15:1-3 "Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering round to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners, and eats with them."***

So, Jesus hears the Pharisees murmuring or criticizing him tells them 3 stories

The lost sheep – he leaves the 99 to find the one & rejoices

The lost coin – She sweeps the whole house & again Rejoices

The lost son – he waits expectantly, forgives & rejoices

## **Transition**

Prodigal son.

He was very disobedient and disrespectful to his father. He decided that he didn't want to be home anymore listening to his father. He wanted to go and have pleasure in the world. So, he demanded his father to give his share of the family money so he could go have a good time and enjoy his life with the world. He party with his friends and spent all his father's money on beer and cigarette and all the pleasures of the world. Then came a famine and because he had no more money his friends didn't want to know him, he had to find a job feeding pigs. It was that point he realized his wrong and decided to go back to his father's place and beg for his forgiveness which the fathers give and has a great celebration to celebrate the return of his lost son. We see here a wonderful story of forgiveness and how all of heaven rejoice when the lost is found. and you thinks that's where the story ends, and they live happily ever after....

There is another story here that we don't often here about. The older brothers story.

*25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'*

*28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So, his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 (accusing) But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I have been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'*

*So the son responds and says what kind of father are you.*

*31 "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"*

And let me say again its easy to criticize and look at other peoples sins and mistakes . And all of us has done it we have look at other people sin and think how awefulit is and not stop to think..." how about me how doi compare with that. Lets look at this older son and see whats in his heart

First of all he was

V28 ANGRY ...no one told him about the party..

V29JEALOUS...I have served you many year but not even a goat...

BITTERR...BUT when this son of yours who devoured your wealth on prostitutes you killed fatted ccalf.

RESENTMENT I HAVE BEEN SERVING YOU FAITHFUL TO YOU AND not getting any recognition...

Rejection...so many years I have served you and you didn't do any of the celebration stuff for me...HE FELT REJECTED AND ANOW HE IS REJECTING HIS DAD AS A RESULT

UNFORGIVING v30 SELFRIGHTEOUS

The father explains that everything he has is the older brothers. The younger brother was lost and dead but now is found and alive once more.

Jesus was explaining to the Pharisee who were murmuring and criticising that they were very good at keeping the law but how about their attitude or the condition of their heart. I see two pig pens in this story. one in a faraway country and one at home. This boy was in a pig pen at home. Look at his attitude and heart towards the father **ANGRY JEALOUS RESENTFUL v29 REJECTION v29 UNFORGIVING DISTRESPECTFUL SELFRIGHTEOUS**

2 Hog pens .one at home and one in the world. Jesus is saying to these people you go to church every Sunday dress up in your good cloths but what's in your heart.

**YOUNG BROTHER – Who ended up in the HOG PEN Was remorseful**

wasted his life on stupid things **wasted all his family money** had no job no food, but he came home with a **repentive and remorseful heart. In his heart he was planning to say sorry to his father to ask forgiveness and willing to work as a slave for his wrong doings.**

The loving father always looking out the window waiting for his son to come home. And that day finally arrived for the father his son walked up the driveway the father so happy he ran and embrace him before the boy could say sorry. The father gives him the robe ring and sandals killed the calf and had the biggest celebrate.

**This boy that messed up bad and disgraced the family name. Embarrassment to everyone.**

**OLDER BROTHER**

the boy that stayed home and was obedient to his father who done all the work around the house did his chores was in another type of pig pen.

HIS HEART WAS ANGRY JEALOUS RESENTFUL REJECTION UNFORGIVING DISTRESPECTFUL SELFRIGHTEOUS.

We look at ourselves... examine ourselves and ask do we have any of this in our lives?

This boy even though at home... he was emotional and spiritual separated from the family.

So, we look at these boys one feeding on pig food and the other on poisoning of unforgiveness his heart was full of the wrong attitude. Jealousy and bitterness towards life.

Jesus is telling those people and us today us about an important lesson on the ATTITUDE OF OUR HEART

The OLDER son may have stayed home but was so far away from his father because of what was in his heart. There was no oneness between him and father.

JESUS IS SAYING

you may be able to recite a lot of the bible and keep ten commandments and go to church and preach a good sermon but what about your attitude??

Which of the 2 brothers are in the worst condition

Jesus wanted the Pharisees seduced to see that it's not our status...our money or our materialist our belongings and outside things that our father wants but our hearts. It's not the outward stuff but what's in our hearts. It's who we are when we are alone

We have all sinned in one way or another in this life. You may think that you are not worthy to come to church that if people should know about your habits are or what you have done...you wouldn't be accepted in that church.

We should never feel like we are too unworthy to come to God.

Jesus would never turn away a sincere repentant sinner.

He was telling the pharisees. You look good but how about your heart.

This boy blew it and ended up in the HOG pen

You blow it and go to church!!

John 3 16. Read. He did not say but...if... He said come home and I forgive you.

God will embrace you the way you are. What ever you have done to to get yourself into trouble. God can bring you back to him No matter how far down you are and you feel HOPELESS...LET ME TELL YOU YOU ARE NEVER HOPLESS **AS LONG AS GOD IS AND ALWAYS BE YOU ARE NOT HOPELESS. YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY IN THE HOG PEN.**

YOU CAN TURN THINGS AROUND BY ASKING GODS FORGIVENESS. SURRENDER TOHIM AND LET HIS TAKE CONTROLL OF YOUR LIFE ASK HIM TO GUIDE YOU TO GOOD FRIENDS AND A CHURCH TO LEARN THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST AND BEGIN TO GROW IN YOU CHRISTIAN LIFE.

You don't have to stay in the pig pen.

Prayer

Father we confess that we would all be in the pig pen if it weren't for your grace. Amazing grace has reached into our lives and by the blood of Jesus our sins have been forgiven. Father I pray that you speak to each one of us today. That we be honest enough to answer the question...Am I in the pig pen. I pray that you speak to our hearts today. That somebody here has been listening or watching and knowing in their hearts where they are spiritually and emotionally and be willing to confess, they sinfulness to you and recognise that you have provided grace on the cross to forgive us of any wrong doings in our life. That you blood will

wash us clean from all unrighteousness and never to be remembered and give us a fresh new beginning. We pray that whatever pig pen we are in that we can choose to turn around and come home and ask you for a second chance to renew our hearts and attitudes.